G. R. S. IX-5]

Previous references.

File No. 6-19

1919-20.

Serial Nos. 183

(P.P)

Later references.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos. One

Part B for Dec^{r} 19.

SUBJECT.

Food supply arrangements

8C183) From,
The Food Controller
No 8131 D) 6-12-1919

Returns with remarks the petition about
by one Y. Subba Rao complaining ~~that~~ the
profits made by merchants in pertain
Bengal from rates that the petition
appears to be the result of misapprehens

W D 1250—GPB—30,000 28-1-19

12/1/20

G. R. S. III—1] 191 9-20

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

(P. R.)

NOTES.

File No. 6-19

FILE HEADING.

Food Supply arrangements.

From The Food Controller in Mysore

No. 8131 Dated 6.12.1919 Received 8.12.1919

Diary No. 10290	Enclos.	Spare Copies.	Serial No. 183.

BRIEF ABSTRACT OF LETTER.

With remarks, Returns, The submission by one G. Subba Rao, about the profits made by merchants, importers and others. The question appears to be of importance.

NOTES AND ORDERS.

DEWAN'S OFFICE.
Recd. on DEC 23 1919
Reg. No. 4287

Submitted for perusal.

Reg
23/12/19

Dewan) - Seen
Reed
27.12.19

Hon
23.12.19.

CHIEF SECRETARIAT
POLITICAL BRANCH.
3 JAN 1920

NOTES—First Sheet.

V

In Reply Refer to
No. 8131
ENC. 2

Tel:-Address.
"CIVISUP"

14940

OFFICE OF THE FOOD CONTROLLER AND
DIRECTOR OF CIVIL SUPPLIES IN MYSORE.

Bangalore,....6th December 19..

DEPT NO. 10290

19 19
DEPT NO.
FILE NO.
SERIAL NO.

From

K. MATTHAN, ESQ., B. A.
Food Controller & Director of Civil Supplies in Mysore.

To

C. S. Balasundaram Iyer, Esq., B.A.,
Chief Secretary to the Government of Mysore.

Sir,

With reference to your No.G.9253 of the 28th October 1919, forwarding an unsigned letter dated 26th Sept. 1919 together with its enclosure (copy of a petition addressed to the Food Controller by one G. Subba Rao complaining that the merchants importing Bengal gram had made enormous profits and praying that the matter may be looked into) I have the honour to state that another copy of the petition was received by me direct.

I have had careful enquiries made through the Deputy Director of Commerce and find no reason to suspect that the invoices produced by the importers were faked, as stated in the petition as the rates shown in them have generally been less than those intimated by the Deputy Director of Commerce as the prevailing rates in the place of purchase.. The sale prices have been fixed by me with reference to the invoice prices, allowing a profit of not more than one rupee per palla, according to the scheme of registration of merchants which has been sanctioned by Government. The President of the Bangalore City Municipality has intimated that the merchants who imported Bengal gram under control have sold the gram subject to the

3

the maximum prices fixed. The petition appears to be the result of misapprehension.

The enclosures to your communication are returned herewith for reference.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Food Controller & Director
of Civil Supplies.

4

Y Subba Rao. Bangalore,
Complains that merchants are selling things at non profit
and controller may be directed to look in matter and
and prays that
control the rates properly.

By Post
1/10/19

DIARY NO. 7620

CHIEF SECRETARIAT.
POLITICAL BRANCH.
27 OCT. 1919

1755 No 461 / 21.10.19

P/P (75)
27-10-19

Dasara's order
Dis may
be sent to
the Food Controller.
BO
20/10/19.

Bangalore,

26th Sep. 1919.

To

Dewan of Mysore State,

Bangalore.

Sir,

I beg to enclose herewith a true copy my communication to the Food-controller in Mysore for your honour's kind perusal of information and needful action as this is a very serious matter deserving your honour's immediate attention.

I beg to remain,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(x) not Signed

THIS DESERVES UNDUE AND SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

True Copy.

Tumkur,

25th Sep. 1919

To

K. Kahtha Esq.,

Food-controller in Mysore, Bangalore.

Sir,

I beg to bring the following few lines to your kind notice for needful action in the interest of the consuming public on whom the sufferings of famine and drought have been continuously inflicted to their utmost bitterness even after the closure of war with all the cares the Government have taken in controlling food-stuffs:-

The Government might have been in full belief and confidence that they framed proper rules and regulations and placed possible restrictions on dealers in food-stuffs so that they may not be able to sell the foodstuffs at exorbitant prices and thus fill their pockets at the expense of the poor and famine-stricken consumers.

In this connection I dare to say that the controlling Department has been still unable to find out the real secret of business after an experience of 5 years.

To prove this I beg to quote one instance of chenna import (bengal-gram) from Central Provinces to Bangalore for which the Government have given allotments. Illegal trade is going on in this case at the expense and sufferings of the poor consumers without being noticed by the Controlling Department.

If you kindly take pains to walk a few steps to Bangalore chenna market and enquire the present ruling rate in person you find it to be Rs30/- per bag of 2½ mds. of 80 lbs. each, that is, the retail dealers are prepared to buy the imported stuff at Rs30/- while the licensed importers are selling the stuff at Rs30/- or a little less sometimes to the retail dealers. Now we must consider what the real cost of a bag of chenna imported to Bangalore station from Harda, Bhopal, Nagapur etc. would be. The calculation goes as follows:-

goes as follows:-

The present market rate at which the licensed importers are buying in Harda is - - -	Rs.16- 8-0 a
Therefore One bag of 2½ mds. costs (good quality)	16- 4-0 "
Cost of gunny- - - - -	0-10-0 "
Sundries viz. carting, stitching etc. - -	0- 4-0 "
The maximum Ry. freight from Harda or any station from Central Provinces to Bangalore should not exceed(from Harda it may be Rs.3/- or less) -	3- 8-0 "
The total cost price of a bag Bangalore delivery-	Rs. 20-10-0

The cost price of one bag of chonna imported to Bangalore being Rs20-10-0 liberally calculated the licensed importer may sell the bag at Rs21-10-0 with a decent margin of one rupee profit per bag while the Government allow 8 as.(if he finds it insufficient) though he must sell at 8 as. margin. But it is very regrettable to note they are selling at Rs.30/- or [illegible] filling their pockets to the extent of Rs.8/- to Rs.[illegible]/- per bag at the expense and suffering of the poor consumer.

I fully believe the Government are quite aware of this kind of smuggling being carried on like this for a long time with all the restrictions placed in their way by the Government. It is here. The Government would do well to conduct serious check on the licensed importer who presents a false invoice to the Government for the selling price to be fixed by it. His invoice is worked up and prepared in such a manner that the selling rate comes to about Rs30/- per bag, the Bangalore market rate. The whole mischief lies in these false invoices and also the seller of the stuff at the exporting station who signs such false invoices at the obligation of the buyer.

How to conduct this serious check? The Government would do well to wire at once to Harda for chonna rate (to some Govt. officer at Harda) and also find out Bangalore rate for comparison and then arrive at the real cost of a bag to be imported to Bangalore as I did above. Then the Government will understand how much

illegal and enormous profits the licensed importers are making while the poor consumers are starving for want of foodstuffs. If the Government are to be guided or take the assistance of some merchant again in working up rates for checking they are sure to be misguided again.

Besides I learn the Food-controller is not checking invoices or asking for invoices at all for the imported stuffs from the Punjab and other places except for rice. Probably he thinks the foodstuffs such as dalls etc. other than rice dispensable with Hindus or there is plenty of these stuffs available everywhere at normal rates before war. Certainly not. All these things are as indispensable for Hindus as rice because they are purely vegetarians. If these licensed dealers are let loose without check with this idea they can play or sure to play any amount of mischief by keeping not only Rs10/- marginal profit per bag but more and more thus making the consumers starve. Especially when chenna and other foodstuffs were imported from the Punjab God only knows the profits made by the dealers. They had sometimes Rs10/- to Rs15/- margin per bag.

I do not know why these dishonest and deceiving dealers be prosecuted when they act against rules and thus injure people. If the Government prosecute one dealer or at least threaten one others will not continue to do like this. Even now the Food-controller would do well to send urgent information to the local Station Master not to give delivery of the present chenna consignments shortly to arrive (I think) before the invoices are checked.

As I have given this as a piece of information for the Government with my hearty simpathies for the starving public I fully believe you would take interest to try the check I suggested on the present consignments from Harda and other places to thus give relief to the starving public.

I hope you keep this confidential and oblige.

I beg to remain, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

G Subba Rao